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Cassis legislation would require candidates to be registered voters

LANSING – Legislation sponsored by state Sen. Nancy Cassis, R-Novi, would make voter registration a prerequisite to running for public office in Michigan.

“As citizens, we are required to be registered voters 30 days prior to an election to vote,” said Cassis. “It seems only prudent that we require those who wish to run for public office to do the same.”

Under Senate Bill 1390, potential candidates would be required to show they had been registered voters in the district they wanted to represent for at least 30 days prior to filing as a candidate.

Lyon Township Clerk Pamela Johnson first brought the issue to Cassis’ attention. Johnson, like other clerks around the state of Michigan, has had candidates file for an upcoming election who were not registered voters in the district.

“I feel it is only fair that a candidate running for office should be a registered voter in the district in which they are running,” Johnson said. “I greatly appreciate the efforts of Senator Cassis introducing legislation to address this matter.”

The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Government Operations.

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